NG LIFE

FROM THE CREATOR OF MUGEN SPIRAL!

Mizuho Kusanagi

8

TOKYOPOP

NG LIFE

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TOKYOPOP

Manga

NG LIFE

Keishi accepts his love for Mii, but when he decides to confess his feelings to her, he finds himself forgetting everything about their past lives in Pompeii! Will Keishi give up his past to embrace a happy future with Mii, just as key memories of their past lives, including their final days in the doomed city and the betrayal of Aglaia, reveal themselves?

"An interesting and compelling story."
—Publishers Weekly

"The art is sparkly and cute, and the characters' love frustration is endearing—it gets into their hearts."
—Otaku USA

THE MANGA REVOLUTION STARTS HERE
漫画革命

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TOKYOPOP AGE RATING
MAY INCLUDE:
MILD VIOLENCE
MILD NUDITY
MILD VIOLENCE
MILD GORE
MILD PROFANITY

COMEDY

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NG LIFE

Volume 8
Mizuho Kusanagi

Vol. 8

By Mizuho Kusanagi

TOKYOPOP®

HAMBURG // LONDON // LOS ANGELES // TOKYO

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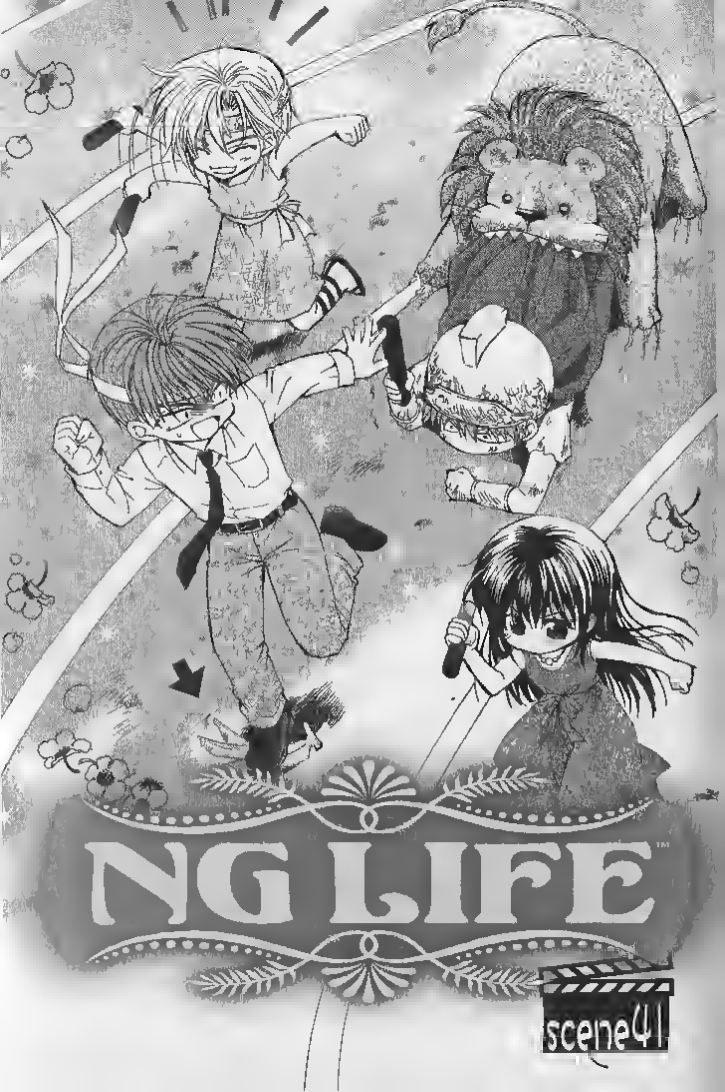
NG LIFE™
scene41

NG Life Volume 8!!
And the twins are on the cover. My handler mistook them for Serena and Yuuma. (laughs) But it's Reina and Yuuma. I'm so happy to have been able to draw Reina for the cover♥ It's fun but hard to draw Reina's Goth-Loli style. All these ribbons and frills and other stuff... I want to get good at it. Okay, please read on through to the end! Volume 8 starts now!

MO... MORNING.
MORNING.
.....
...NOT GOING IN?
I-I AM.
GOOD MORNING, SNUNA-SAN.
GOOD MOR-NING.

...
WHAT'S THE MATTER?
HM?
YOU SEEM DIFFERENT THAN USUAL.
I DO? BUT I'M THE SAME AS ALWAYS.
IS THAT SO? I THOUGHT THAT PERHAPS THE FORTUNE MII GAVE YOU MIGHT HAVE COME TRUE.
FORTUNE?
...OHH...
THAT I'LL "LOSE SOMETHING IMPORTANT"?
NOT AT ALL.
NOTHING OF THE SORT.

Thank you as always, everyone. It's me, Mizuho Kusanagi. And it's NG Life Volume 8! Sniff, sniff. (tears of gratitude) A huge thank you to the editorial staff and readers who've allowed my run to come this far! Volume 8 is an extremely important volume in the flow of NG Life. Since you've come this far, please, please see all the characters through to the very end. Now then, in this particular volume, Keidai is facing surprisingly ordinary teenaged-boy challenges for once. It feels strange—

What I had the most fun drawing this time around was the third frame two pages from this one.

Even though no one really asked for it, I also made a character introduction page for the members of the Loser K-chan Team.

I love them.

ズキン
ズキン
ズキン
ビクッ
SAEKI!

DUDE, SO CHECK THIS OUT.
ME AND EIKO BROKE UP, YOU KNOW.
OONO?!
HEYY, YOU HEADING HOME NOW?
Damn you!
MUST BE NICE FOR YOU YOUNGSTERS!
RUN HOME, RUN NOME!
WHAT THE HECK? YOU WERE ABOUT TO GO HOME WITH SERIZAWA?
Bitter →
COMFORT ME, COMFORT ME!
EVEN THOUGH YOU AND I AREN'T FRIENDS!
HEY...
B Her
HUH? IT'S SERIZAWA.
...A.K.A. SAEKI-KUN'S ONE AND ONLY FRIEND.

I JUST FINISHED MY DAILY CHORES.
SORRY FOR THE WAIT.
SERIZAWA.
LET'S GO HOME.
HURRY.
BUT...
I WAS...
LET'S GO HOME.

...SO STUNNED THEN...
...MY HEAD WAS KILLING ME...
...AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
...TO GET SERIZAWA OUT.
...I COULDN'T THINK OF ANYTHING.
...I WANTED TO GET OUT OF THERE...
I JUST WANTED...
ONLY THAT...
KEI-CHAN.

ER... YEAH.
WE'RE GOING TO THE SCIENCE LAB NEXT.
I WAS ONLY A LITTLE SURPRISED.
CALM DOWN.
THIS IS BETWEEN SERIZAWA AND KOTOMIYA.
SO I BETTER ACT NORMAL.
MY HEAD...
I SHOULD JUST ACT NORMAL.
MY HEART...

...THEY BOTH HURT LIKE THEY'RE ABOUT TO BREAK.
HEY, WHAT'S UP? HAVE SOME BUSINESS HERE?
KOTOMIYA ...

WA... WAIT!
...OKAY, WE'LL GO ON AHEAD THEN.
YEAH, WITH MII-CHAN...
WHA?
AH...
UM... THE BELL'S ABOUT TO RING.
SO NOW IS...
SORRY... KIYO-CHAN.

OH, SORRY.
LET GO OF ME.
SERIZAWA, UH...
...TRUE. I UNDERSTAND.
ABOUT YESTERDAY...
KE... KEI-CHAN, UM...
WHAT ABOUT IT?
...YESTERDAY?

...NOTHING. NEVER MIND.
EVEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WHAT YET...
YEAH... I WAS GONNA EXPLAIN SOMETHING TO KEI-CHAN THAT HAS NOTHING AT ALL TO DO WITH HIM, HUH?
Kei-chan is there you doing here?!
AAAH!

HEY, YUUMA.
DID YOU GET SKINNIER AGAIN?
HOW MUCH DO YOU WEIGH NOW?
MMM, 92 POUNDS
More or less
WHAT?! FOUR POUNDS LIGHTER THAN MEEEE!
AND AREN'T YOU THE SAME HEIGHT AS ME, TOO?
While studying, Yuuma's friends would burst into a scary aura!!
OH, IT'S SERIZAWA-SAN.
SO IT IS. WONDER WHAT SHE'S UP TO?
WHO'S THAT DUDE BEHIND HER?
Engh!

WHA! HEY...
YUUMA?!
This is the second story!
AH

YU--YUUMA-KUN?!
LET GO OF HER.
YOU KNOW HIM?
YEAH.
OH! THIS IS MY CHILDHOOD FRIEND, KIYOHIKO KOTOMIYA-KUN.
AS FOR WHY I WAS BEING CHASED, IT'S...
Ummm
WHO IS THIS GUY, SERIZAWA-SAN?
WHY WERE YOU BEING CHASED?
BECAUSE I KISSED YOU, RIGHT?

THE TRUTH...
JEEZ! WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KIYO-CHAN, REALLY!
AHHHH!! IT'S NOTHING, NOTHING AT ALL!
HUH?!
OKAY...
KIYO-CHAN.
I mean, your punches really do pack a punch, Yuuma-kun!
Aaah!
HOLD UP!!
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT CAN I PUNCH HIM?
...DAMMIT.
THEY RAN OFF SOME-WHERE.
DON'T REALLY KNOW.
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
Welcome back
I WON'T RUN AWAY ANYMORE.

WHAT THE HELL IS THAT IDIOT DOING...?
SORRY FOR RUNNING.
I'VE BEEN A LITTLE CONFUSED...
NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE.
I WAS IN THE WRONG.
... WHA ...
...WHY DID YOU DO THAT...?
YESTERDAY...
... THAT'S ...

IT WAS IN THE SCRIPT, SO I WENT WITH THE FLOW, AND IT JUST HAPPENED.
...UM?
... BECAUSE IT SAID "LOVE SCENE."
WHO KNEW YOU WERE SUCH A FREE SPIRIT?!
YEAH. SORRY.
You better check yourself!
SORRY'S NOT ENOUGH, YOU IDIOT!!
YEAH. SORRY.
YEAH. SORRY.
JUST A SECOND, ARE YOU KIDDING ME? ARE YOU SERIOUSLY TELLING ME THAT YOU JUST DID IT ON A WHIM?!

Sigh.
JEEZ... KIYO-CHAN, YOU'VE REACHED YOUR MAXIMUM ON WORDS HERE, HUH?
YOU KNOW YOU'RE GONNA GIVE THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU HEART ATTACKS?
'CAUSE I HAVE NO IMMUNITY AGAINST THIS STUFF.
NO IM-MUNITY?
DON'T BRING THAT UP AGAIN.
IT REALLY KIND OF SHOCKED ME, SO YOU AB-SOLUTELY CAN'T JUST SUDDENLY DO THAT WHENEVER YOU FEEL LIKE IT OR WHATEVER!
... OKAY.
DO YOU STILL LIKE HIM, MII-CHAN?
SAEKI-KUN.

...WELL, HOW'D YOU KNOW?
...YOU DO.
SOME-HOW.
YOU DON'T PULL YOUR PUNCHES, KIYO-CHAN...
BUT HE CONSIDERS YOU A FRIEND, DOESN'T HE, MII-CHAN?
YES.
TO KEI-CHAN, I'M...
...NO DIFFERENT THAN A GUY FRIEND.
SINCE FOREVER, NOW.
...HMM.
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...OH, YOU TWO WERE TOGETHER?
IT'S ALMOST CLEANUP TIME.
OR SHOULD I GO ELSEWHERE?
N-NO WAY! OUR CONVERSATION IS OVER.
YEAH. THEN I'LL GO TO THE CLEANUP SPOT TOO.

...I NOTICED YOU HADN'T COME BACK FROM LUNCH BREAK...
...BUT HERE YOU WERE ALL ALONG, HUH?
SORRY, WERE YOU LOOKING FOR ME?
NO, NOT REALLY ...
SHUFFLE
DON'T TELL ME YOU HAVEN'T HAD LUNCH YET?
SO HE WAS LOOKING FOR ME.
...I WAS FULL BEFORE.
TA DAAAAA!
Awko Bread
A RED BEAN PASTE BUN!

Do you have a fourth-dimensional pocket?
NOW? IT'S CLEAN-UP TIME.
LET'S SHARE THIS.
IT'LL GO FAST IF WE HIDE AND JUST SCARF IT DOWN!
GROWWWW!!!
BUT...
SEEE! THERE GOES MY TUMMY TOO!
MUNCH MUNCH
But...
NOT ENOUGH.
NOPE, NOT ENOUGH.
RIGHT?
SO GOOD.
...
HEY, KEI-CHAN?

YESTERDAY... YOU SAW, DIDN'T YOU?
UM... ME AND KIYO-CHAN...
AH, ABOUT THAT. KIYO-CHAN WAS READING THE SCRIPT AND IT SAID TO KISS, SO HE DID IT ON A WHIM.
I WAS REALLY SHOCKED, BUT...
...IT LOOKS LIKE IT HAD NO DEEPER MEANING.
JUST ON A WHIM... HUH.
KOTOMIYA'S WORDS ARE BLUNT, BUT ..
...I GUESS EVEN HE LIES SOME-TIMES.
HUH?
...I DID, BUT...
... WHAT ...?

DID... YOUR HAIR GROW A LITTLE LONGER AGAIN?

I'M SURE THERE ARE LOTS OF GUYS WHO WOULD FALL FOR SERIZAWA.

AND F..OM HERE ON OUT...

...WHEN I THINK ABOUT IT, IT MAKES PERFECT SENSE.

MAYBE. I HAVEN'T CUT IT LATELY.

...IT'S POSSIBLE THAT A GUY COULD SHOW UP WHO WILL GET CLOSER TO SERIZAWA THAN I AM.

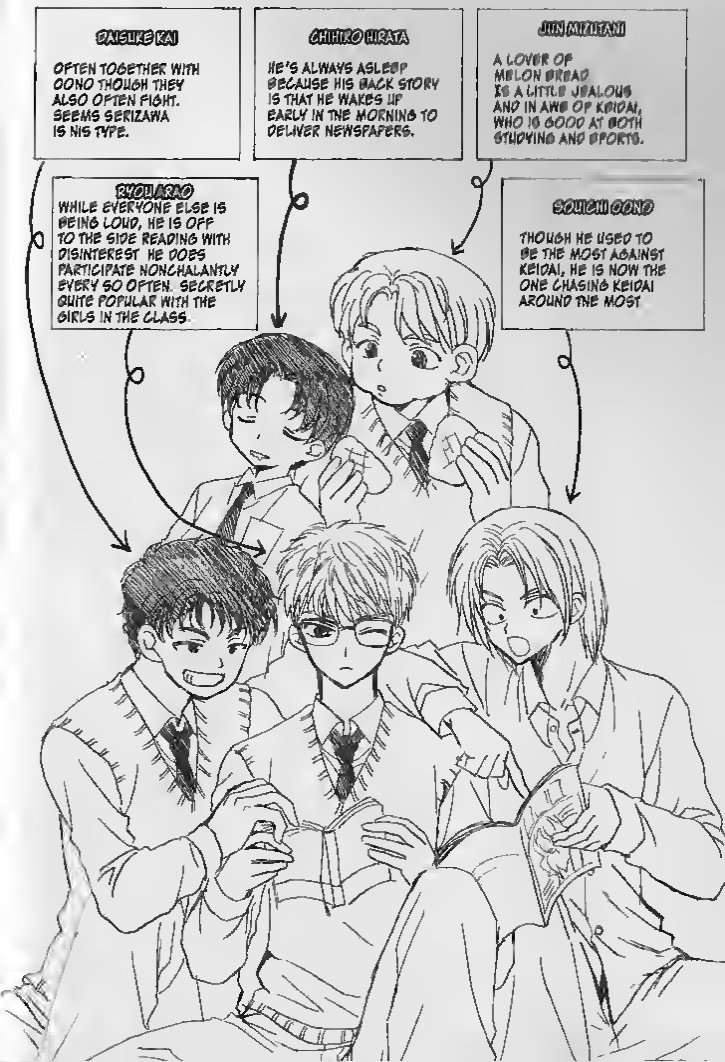
I GUESS I'LL DO TODAY'S CLEANING TOMORROW.
...WAIT.
AM I STILL ALL TANGLED UP?
Diring dong daaang
YEAH...
OH, THE BELL RANG!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH ME?
THAT SERIZAWA COULD BECOME SOMEONE ELSE'S SOMEDAY.
I THOUGHT YOU MIGHT BE GROWING IT OUT, SERIZAWA.
LIKE WHEN YOU PLAYED SERENA.
I HADN'T THOUGHT ABOUT IT.
AHA HA... NOT A CHANCE!
I DIDN'T TRY TO THINK ABOUT IT.
LONG HAIR IS A PAIN!
I DIDN'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT IT.
SHOULD I GO SHORT LIKE BACK IN THE DAY?
It's so easy
ONE DAY SHE'LL GET A BOYFRIEND...
...OR GET MARRIED.
USUAL THINGS LIKE THAT.

...LIKE THIS BRANCH...
I WANT TO ENTANGLE HER...
...AND NEVER LEAVE THIS PLACE.
scene.40/End

NG LIFE

scene42

EXTRA: THE LOSER K-CHAN TEAM CHARACTER INTRODUCTION


DAISUKE KAI
OFTEN TOGETHER WITH OONO THOUGH THEY ALSO OFTEN FIGHT. SEEMS SERIZAWA IS HIS TYPE.
CHIHIRO HIRATA
HE'S ALWAYS ASLEEP BECAUSE HIS BACK STORY IS THAT HE WAKES UP EARLY IN THE MORNING TO DELIVER NEWSPAPERS.
JUN MIZUTANI
A LOVER OF MELON BREAD IS A LITTLE JEALOUS AND IN AWE OF KEIDAI, WHO IS GOOD AT BOTH STUDYING AND SPORTS.
RYOU ARAO
WHILE EVERYONE ELSE IS BEING LOUD, HE IS OFF TO THE SIDE READING WITH DISINTEREST. HE DOES PARTICIPATE NONCHALANTLY EVERY SO OFTEN. SECRETLY QUITE POPULAR WITH THE GIRLS IN THE CLASS.
SOUICHI OONO
THOUGH HE USED TO BE THE MOST AGAINST KEIDAI, HE IS NOW THE ONE CHASING KEIDAI AROUND THE MOST

YOU'VE BEEN REAL WEIRD LATELY, HUH?
SAEKI, MAN.
...ABOUT WHAT?

That Soaki would be all "there it is huh? That sucks" and have it written all over his face that he was the Old Maid!
OH, COME ON. THE GUY WE KNOW AS KEIDAI SAEKI IS ALWAYS IN DISTRESS! HE'S THE TYPE OF GUY WHO DOES STUFF LIKE CRYING HYSTERICALLY, FRANTICALLY APOLOGIZING, AND BANGING HIS HEAD AGAINST THE WALL, RIGHT?
UM.
WHAT THE HECK?
NO, LIKE, "NORMAL"?
LIKE, KINDA... COOL?
If I'm normal that's not weird
OH, KINO-CHAN!
WHAT DO YOU THINK I AM...
COLD... SO, SO COLD IN THIS ROOM.
HM? A DICTIONARY? YUP, I HAVE ONE.
...AS I HAVE NO REAL WORRIES OR ANYTHING.
ヒオオオ
FWOOSH
At least be on fire, dude Like fwoosh!

...OR ABOUT LOSING SOMETHING IMPORTANT AND ALL THAT...
...THOSE AROUND ME TALK ABOUT MY WORRIES...
ALTHOUGH...
...MY DAYS HAVE BEEN GOING SMOOTHLY...
WITHOUT ANY HITCHES AT ALL.
GOT A SEC?
KEIDAI.
WITHOUT...
Stagger...
In the middle of a Drama Club meeting
WHO IS HE?
JUST 'CAUSE.
So dramatic...
YES? WHAT BRINGS THE TWO OF YOU HERE?

Ahh
THAT'S SERIZAWA'S CHILDHOOD FRIEND, KIYOHIKO KOTO...
Er Er
WHO THE HELL CARES ABOUT THAT?!
斬
SLASH!!
...YU... YUUMA. YOU'RE BECOMING MORE AND MORE LIKE SHINOGU-SAN...
I ADMIRE SHINOGU-SAN'S EVIL SIDE.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
These cousins are
DON'T YOU KNOW THAT DUDE'S A WEIRDO WHO'S GETTING ALL CLOSE TO SERIZAWA-SAN?!
HE WAS CHASING AFTER MII JUST NOW!

...I KNOW KOTOMIYA LIKES SERIZAWA.
SO THEN...
SO THEN?
...IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T HAVE ANY.
...DO YOU REALLY NOT HAVE ANY FEELINGS FOR SERIZAWA-SAN?
スパン
SHE'S MY BEST FRIE--
A DOUBLE ATTACK?! WHY?!
Because it hurts?!
YOU PISSED US OFF.
SO SORRY, KOTOMIYA-KUN.

HE SAYS HE'LL JOIN!
KOTOMIYA-KUN AND THE DRAMA CLUB...
SERIZAWA-SAAAN, OVER HERE!
IT'S NOTHING... PAINTING IS MY HOBBY ANYWAY.
HAVING TO HELP US OUT WITH THE PROPS AND ALL...
BUT WOW, YOU SURE DO GREAT WORK!
HEY.
YOU MIGHT AS WELL JOIN THE DRAMA CLUB, EH?
HMMM? WHAT'S ALL THIS?
COME ON, SERIZAWA'LL ASK YOU, TOO.

BECAUSE YOU LOOKED LIKE YOU WERE "BOTHERED."
HEY, WAIT, YOU CAN'T JUST...
Mmrghh!
WHA?
WHEN DID I... AND ANYWAY, YOU LIKE SERI...
AT ANY RATE.
YEAH, SO ME JOINING IS...
THAT GUY CAN'T GET CLOSE TO SERIZAWA-SAN.
REALLY, KEI-CHAN?

Guh!
YOU'LL REALLY JOIN?
I MEAN, I INVITED YOU COUNTLESS TIMES BUT YOU'D NEVER ACCEPT.
You'd always help out when needed though
NO, THAT'S WHY...
...I'll...
IF WE GET ANY CLOSER THAN THIS...
I'M NOT JOINING.
...LOOK SO HAPPY.
NEXT UP WE'RE HAVING A RETREAT.
A RE-TREAT? THAT SOUNDS FUN!
Wanna go to Reiri-chan?
DON'T...

An NG Life-Like Account.
My editor, upon reading the rough draft I drew of Ky—chan and Sertzawa's kiss at the end of scene10 in Volume 7.
We can't...have their lips not touch...or something, right? I guess that wouldn't make an impact... no good, huh?
When hanging up
At any rate I hate Kyo chan
When reviewing the pencils
Really hate that Katomiya.
Upon getting the finished piece
I think you're synching with Keidai a little too much.
That guy I hate is in here a lot..
She is the perfect editor for NG Life
BECAUSE I WANT TO PAINT.
Ooh!
THANK YOU, KOTOMIYA-KUN.
IF YOU HAVE ANY PLAY SCENERY TO PAINT, I'LL HELP OUT.
SO YOU'D DECIDED ON THE ART CLUB
I SEE... KIYO-CHAN.
.....
KEIOAI.
WAKE UP ALREADY.
YUUMA, WHAT ARE YOU PLANNING...
SHALL WE PITCH IN AND HELP?
...YOU CAN'T LET YOUR GUARD DOWN JUST BECAUSE THEY WON'T BE IN THE SAME CLUB.

IT'S ABOUT TIME, KEIDAI SAEKI...
...FOR YOU TO OPEN YOUR EYES.
...NOW THEN, ABOUT OUR NEXT PLAY.
IF THERE'S ONE YOU WANT TO DO...
YES!
WHA... I'VE BEEN ASSUMING YOU GUYS WERE OURS FOR AGES NOW.
HEY!
SO YEAH, KEIDAI SAEKI IS JOINING THE DRAMA CLUB!

WHY CINDER-ELLA?
THIS ISN'T A GRADE SCHOOL ARTS FESTIVAL, YOU KNOW..
WELL, CAUSE CINDER-ELLA SAYS LOVE AND ROMANCE.
CINDER-ELLA!
Doesn't really know his fairy tales
YOU'LL BE THE PRINCE AND MII WILL BE CINDERELLA! AT THE BALL YOU'LL WHISPER TO EACH OTHER WITH YOUR HANDS AROUND HER WAIST AND BRING ON AN EXPLOSION OF LOVE!
Hmmm I try to imagine that and it just seems odd
HUH?!
WHY WOULD I DO THAT? I DON'T WANT TO PLAY A PART LIKE...
WAIT A SEC. IF WE CHANGE A FEW ELEMENTS, CINDERELLA MIGHT BE A LOT OF FUN.
LIKE IF WE PUT KIYO-CHAN AS THE PRINCE AND KEI-CHAN AS CINDERELLA, FOR INSTANCE!
I'M NOT A MEM-BER..
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO TO ME?!
With that casting!

HE'S SUFFERING FROM FORBIDDEN LOVE FOR HIS NON-BLOOD-RELATED BIG SISTER, SERIZAWA!!
EXCUSE ME?!
YUK
shove
Yuuma.
WELL... THEN...
AS EXPECTED FROM MII. A DANGEROUS CASTING CHOICE...
Isn't it obvious I'm a guy?
Some how
CINDERELLA IS REALLY A GUY!
WHY DOES CINDERELLA DRESS UP LIKE A GIRL AND GET BULLIED BY HER FAMILY EVERY DAY?
BECAUSE IT'S HIS KINK!
KINK?!
I GOT IT!
This just got a little more fun
ONE DAY, THE FAIRY GODMOTHER APPEARS AND TURNS CINDERELLA-KEIDAI INTO A GIRL!
AND THEN PRINCE KIYO-CHAN, STUNNED BY GIRL-KEIDAI-CINDERELLA, FALLS IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT AND SUDDENLY PROPOSES!
BUT THE SPELL FADES AT MIDNIGHT!

WHAT KINDA CINDERELLA IS THIS?!
IN THE FINAL SCENE, HE GOES AND ELOPES WITH HIS OLDER SISTER!!
Again SHOVE!!
IF SO!
IF YOU'RE SEEING THIS FACE, CALL 911!
COULD THAT PLEASE MATTER?! I'M BEGGIN' YOU!
AND PRINCE KIYO-CHAN SAYS, "IT DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE A GUY"...?
RUNAWAY CINDERELLA IS WANTED NATIONWIDE.
AND IF WE SEAL IT WITH A KISS, THE AUDIENCE WILL BE THOROUGHLY SATISFIED!!
HE--
HEY...
HE--
...AMUSING, BUT...
IT'S CERTAINLY...

...REMEMBER THAT WE HAVE OTHER MEMBERS HERE TOO.
whatever
No, that was funny
I wanna play Cinderella
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU GUYS?
We just formed so let's be more obedient
IT'S BECAUSE YOU GUYS ARE IDLING ALONG.
WE'RE TRYING TO CREATE A NICE MOOD FOR YOU.
WHA!
I HAVE-- NO IDEA WHAT YOU'RE ...
WE'RE NOT LIKE THAT ...
DON'T YOU WANT TO PLAY SERIZAWA-SAN'S "LOVER"?
WE'RE TIRED OF HEARING THAT ALREADY.
I DO NOT!!

...UM...
MII-CHAN, DO YOU KNOW ANY GOOD PLACES?
The neighborhood has changed from five years ago
I'D LIKE TO BUY SOME PAINTING SUPPLIES, BUT...
OH... YEAH.
SHALL WE GO?

CAN I GO TOO?
Phew!
MORE HANDS FOR CARRYING BAGS WILL BE NICE!
CARRYING BAGS?
OH, NO OFFENSE!
HOW COME KEIDAI IS BEING LIKE THAT AROUND YOU, MII?
WHAT?
I DON'T THINK I'VE SEEN HIM QUITE SO INTENSE BEFORE

IT IS. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LOLEUS TO KEI-CHAN...
THAT'S BECAUSE I'M LIKE A GUY FRIEND.
WE DO FIGHT AND STUFF EVERY SO OFTEN, ME AND KEI-CHAN.
NO, THAT'S NOT IT...
IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN LIKE THAT AT FIRST, BUT...
... RE-CENTLY ...
EXACTLY, AND HE ONLY GETS LIKE THAT TOWARDS YOU, MII.
HE'S SUPER NICE TO ME.
We don't fight
.....
BLURTING OUT INTENSE WORDS AND STUFF.
I SOME-HOW GET IT.
...THAT'S WHY YOU SHOULDN'T GET HURT BY IT.
SO MII...

I'M SUCH AN ASS.
WHY DID I SAY IT LIKE THAT?
LATELY...
EVEN WHEN I OPEN MY MOUTH, MY HEAD'S ALL MUDDLED UP...
...I CAN'T LOOK SERIZAWA IN THE EYE.
...AND I SUDDENLY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT I'M SAYING.
On the roof
IT'S LIKE I'M NOT MYSELF.

BUT I'M ~~SIRIX.~~
...WHAT THE?

DONE PRAYING, MR. ROLY-POLY?
YUUMA ...
...ARE YOU...
...OKAY?
...ARE YOU OKAY?
SO WITH ALL THAT...
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS TRUE, BUT--
--THEY WERE ARGUING OVER HAVING KISSED AND OTHER STUFF.
CAN YOU SAY YOU'RE JUST FRIENDS?
THAT KOTOMIYA DUDE GETS ALONG WELL WITH SERIZAWA-SAN, HUH.
REINA SAID THEY WERE GETTING ALL EXCITED OVER PAINTING SUPPLIES.

THAT'S UP TO SERIZAWA TO DECIDE, ISN'T IT?
THE TRUTH IS, EACH TIME...
...KOTOMI'S GOT CLOSER TO SERIZAWA...
...I HATED IT SO MUCH I COULD HARDLY STAND IT.
I WAS ABOUT TO GO CRAZY.
EVEN IF SERIZAWA-SAN FINDS SOMEONE SERIOUS...
...AND STARTS TO PULL AWAY FROM YOU?
HOW CAN I BE OKAY?
...WE ARE FRIENDS.
LIAR.

WHAT SELFISH FEELINGS.
...I DON'T HAVE THE RIGHT...
...TO HOLD HER BACK.
...SERIZAWA IS NOT MINE.
NO MATTER WHERE SERIZAWA GOES...
I...
I...
WHETHER IT'S SELFISH OR WHATEVER, I DON'T CARE. TO LET SOMEONE ELSE GET SERIZAWA-SAN...
I HATE IT!
HUH?!
...ABSOLUTELY ...
...CAN'T STAND THAT!!!

...
SHUT UP!
...IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO GET ME AND SERIZAWA TOGETHER--
WELL... YOU LIKE HER, SO...
And that's fine
...
I'M ...
...NO GOOD.
I'M NO GOOD WHEN IT COMES TO SERIZAWA!!
I'VE AL-WAYS ...
...ALWAYS KNOWN THAT...
AND I CAN'T DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT!!
BUT I SURE AS HELL AIN'T HANDING SERIZAWA-SAN OVER TO SOME RANDOM DUDE WHO JUST SHOWS UP OUT OF NOWHERE!!
BECAUSE I'D HATE FOR IT TO BE ANYONE BUT YOU.

IT'S ONLY BECAUSE IT'S YOU
...
...THAT I'M WILLING TO GIVE UP ON HER!!
YOU'RE TALKING NON-SENSE...
JUST A SECOND
WAI ...
... NO.

SERI-ZAWA'S FEELINGS COME FIRS...
DON'T PLAY DUMB!!
I WON'T LET YOU SAY YOU DON'T KNOW!!
YOU REALLY DO KNOW, DON'T YOU?!
SERIZAWA-SAN HAS ALWAYS...
...ALWAYS...

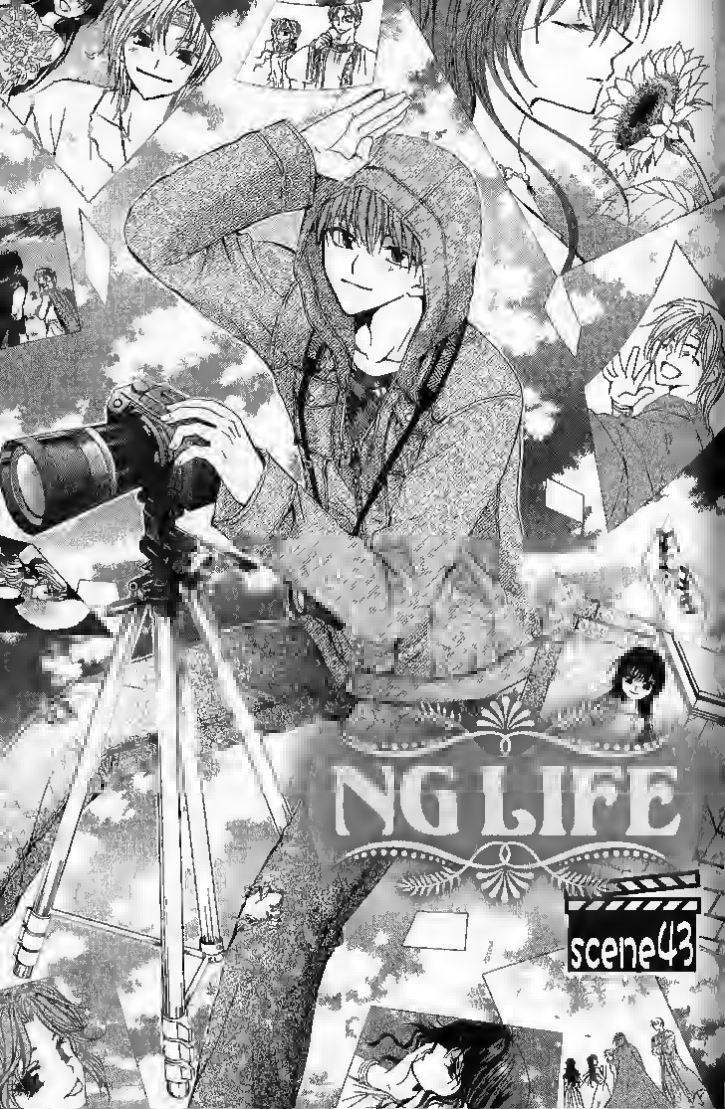
...FOR YOU...

ちょっ
ヤバい
AH...
DON'T CRY.
OR ELSE WE'LL SYNC UP.
THERE, THERE.

...I FELT LIKE I HAD TO BE BY YOUR SIDE.
SOME-HOW...
WHY ARE YOU HERE...?
...SHUT IT...
I'M SURE IT WAS MY MISSION.
...THAT IN MY PAST LIFE I WAS A PERSON NAMED "SERENA."
...KNOW...
...I...

I WANT HIM...
I WANT KEIDAI...
THAT'S ALL I KNOW.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT, BUT...
...TO BE FREE.

Scene42/ End


NG LIFE
scene43

HEY, HEY, MII!
TELL MY FORTUNE NEXT!
YES, YES.
THIS AND THAT HAPPENED ...
WHAT SHOULD I FOCUS ON, REINA-CHAN?
...AND I SOME-HOW JOINED THE DRAMA CLUB..

Thank you so much for all your letters, drawings, and messages of support! ☆ (And those of you who answer surveys for me as well.) Every so often I even get mail from Taiwanese fans trying their very, very best to write in Japanese and it just really makes my day! If you have any opinions or thoughts about my work, please send them to me

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c/o TOKYOPOP Inc
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...AND HAVE GONE WITH THEM ON A RETREAT.
AL-THOUGH IT'S THE SAKAKI-BARA FAMILY VACATION HOME.
SO SAKAKI-BARA-SAN'S A RICH GIRL.
BUT REALLY, WE'RE AWFUL!
GETTING TO USE SUCH AN AMAZ-ING PLACE FOR FREE AND ALL.
OH, NO WORRIES.
Cause it wouldnt get used if not for timeslike this!!
IT'S THE BEST! YOU CAN EVEN SEE THE OCEAN.
Let's go play there later!
Hey hey!
WHAT ABOUT YOU, KEIDAI? DID YOU GET YOUR FORTUNE TOLD?
KEI-CHAN'S DONE IT ONCE, BUUUT...
WHAT, WHAT?
ALL RIGHT! LET'S TRY AND DO KEI-CHAN'S FORTUNE ONE MORE TIME!
I SAID I'M FINE!

NOW, NOW, NEXT TIME FOR SURE...
...YOU'LL GET A BRIGHT FUTURE.
OH.
"ANXIETY," "COLLAPSE," AND "SEPARATION" SHOWED UP AGAIN.
WHAT ARE THE OOOS THAT YOU'D GET THE SAME CARDS A SECOND TIME!
MIRACLES HAPPEN!
HEY, STOP ENJOYING THIS SO MUCH!
NATURAL.
NATURAL.
NATURAL.

An NG Life-Like Account:
Sorry...
The day after I pulled an all-nighter and had to get my mother to send my finished work to my editor by air courier
I better text my editor
Let's see, since it's being sent out at 3:30 p.m., then it should get to Tokyo at approximately 6:00 p.m.—
*My editor goes to the airport to pick it up
Better text
Mizuh-
It just seems to be some old bones
Incoming 3:54 P.M. Received Mail (Handler) "Did you send it out?"
Bzzzzzzz
Mizuhe
It just seems to be some old bones
Incoming 4:54 P.M. Received Mail (Handler) "Hello?"
Bzzzzzzz
To be continued
The message you get when you examined a skeleton of no particular interest in Dragon Quest
SERIZAWA-SAN HAS ALWAYS, FOR YOU...
.....
I GUESS I'M SPEAKING TO HER NATURALLY?
NO-THING.
At all
Wow what a litigious face
WHAT'S WRONG, KEI-CHAN?
smack
KIYO-CHAN!
WOW!

ARE THOSE ALL PAINTING SUPPLIES?
Show me!
WE'RE FINALLY HERE, SO I THOUGHT I'D TRY TO DO SOME SKETCHES.
EVEN SO, IS IT REALLY OKAY FOR ME TO COME ON THE RETREAT WHEN I'M NOT A MEMBER?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? HAVEN'T YOU HELPED US OUT?
DRAW ALL YOU LIKE.
We're here for free and all!
...KEIDAI.
JEEZ...
IF IT'S BOTHERING YOU, WHY NOT CUT IN?
Can't cha see yer damn child?!
WHAT TH'HELL CAN I DO?!
UGH!!
HIT ME!!
HEY EVERYONE! LET'S GO PLAY SOME BEACH VOLLEYBALL!

Was sleeping in the next room over
IF WE'RE TALKIN' VOLLEY-BALL, I'LL PLAY TOO.
Gonna move my body and sweat out my idle thoughts!!
ALL RIGHT! LET'S DO THIS!!
ドキッ
TEAM KEIDAI & SERIZAWA.
WHY AM I ON THE SAME TEAM AS SERIZAWA?
CAN'T BANISH IDLE THOUGHTS ...
IT'S NOT OVER YET!
BECAUSE YUUMA'S OUT TO KILL.
JUST AS EXPECTED FROM YUUMA-KUN.
He's strong!
TEAM YUUMA & REINA.
This is not on the level of beach volleyball
wheeze /
12 POINTS FOR ME NOW.
YUUMA... YOU'RE HITTING WAY TOO HARD...

ARE YOU REALLY UP FOR THIS?
I FEEL LIKE ALL I EVER DO IS MAKE HIM MAD OR MAKE HIM CRY.
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE IT'S YOU THAT I'M WILLING TO GIVE UP ON HER!!
WHAT CAN I EVER DO...
Hrgk
...TO MAKE HIM HAPPY, I WONDER?
THEN...
...SHALL I FIGHT BACK?
"YOU WILL LOSE SOMETHING IMPORTANT."
TH..T'S WHAT MY FORTUNE SAYS, BUT...

IS THAT SO BAD?
I HAVE LOTS OF IMPORTANT THINGS.
IS IT REALLY SO WRONG ...
...TO WISH TO STAY AS I AM?

I'M NOT GOOD AT SPORTS.
YOU'RE NOT GONNA PLAY?
KOTO-MIYA.
WOW...
DON'T TOUCH IT!
SORR...
AH. I MEAN...
THAT'S NOT IT...
...I SEE.

I MEANT, IT'S BEST NOT TO TOUCH YET, BECAUSE YOU'LL GET PAINT ON YOUR HANDS.
I SHOULD HAVE SAID THAT.
YOU REALLY DO LIKE IT, HUH? ART, THAT IS.
?
AS LONG AS I'VE KNOWN YOU...
...YOU'VE BEEN DRAWING QUIETLY ALONGSIDE EVERYONE AS THEY MAKE A RUCKUS, HUH, KOTOMIYA?
SO I'M NO FUN TO HANG OUT WITH? Sorry
OH, THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

I THINK THE WAY YOU SIT THERE, SO FOCUSED ON YOUR ART...
BE-CAUSE ...
...UNTIL NOW...
THAT SHAPE, ONLY LOOKING AHEAD.
...WITHOUT EVER TURNING YOUR HEAD OR GETTING DISTRACTED... IT'S PRETTY COOL.
...I'VE NEVER REALLY...
...JUMPED INTO SOMETHING AND LOST MYSELF LIKE THAT.
ALL SO I WOULDN'T FORGET THEM, AND THAT CITY.
I'M JUST PACKING MY BAG WITH THE THINGS I LIKE UNTIL MY ALLOTTED TIME'S UP.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?

TIME WON'T STOP FOR US, RIGHT?
FROM THE SECOND I WAS BORN AND OPENED MY EYES...
...THERE'S BEEN SO MUCH AROUND ME.
THESE THINGS OF OUR ERA ARE SO FLEETING, HERE ONLY FOR NOW.
BECAUSE I AM WHO I AM...
...WHILE I'M ALIVE, I WANT TO TAKE ALL THIS...
...AND CAREFULLY CAPTURE IT...
SO YOU PACK THEM IN YOUR BAG?
UH-HUH.

...IT'S REALLY ONLY...
...MII-CHAN AND YOU, SAEKI-KUN, WHO'LL LISTEN TO ME PROPERLY WHEN IT COMES TO CONVERSATIONS LIKE THIS.
THAT'S A REALLY DEEP THING TO SAY, KOTOMIYA.
I'D ALSO LIKE TO HEAR ABOUT...
...YOUR DREAMS AND...
...WHAT YOU'VE GONE THROUGH, SAEKI-KUN. SOMEDAY.
TIME WON'T STOP FOR US, RIGHT?

"YOUR DREAMS AND..."
"...WHAT YOU'VE GONE THROUGH, SAEKI-KUN."
THE TIME THAT BELONGS TO ME, KEIJI SAEKI...
...IS STOPPED.
I BELIEVED IT SHOULD BE STOPPED.
I WON'T FORGET.
IT HAD TO BE STOPPED.
THE PAIN OF THAT DAY...
I WON'T LET ANY OF THAT BE INTERRUPTED.
THEIR FIGURES, THEIR FEELINGS...
IF THAT'S SO...
SO I SWORE THAT...
..."I WON'T FORGET."
KEI-CHAAAN!

...ARE SOMEHOW A BETRAYAL TO THEM?
...THESE FEELINGS...
IS IT THAT THIS UNSTOPPABLE MOMENT AND...

HERE YOU ARE.
WE'RE HAVING A BARBECUE TONIGHT, SO LET'S HURRY AND GET BACK.
GO ON AHEAD. I WANT TO WALK AROUND HERE A LITTLE LONGER.
I'LL BE FINE BY MYSELF.
YOU GO ON AHEAD.
THEN I'LL JOIN...
TAKE THAT!!
GAH!
WHAT'RE YOU..
WHY HAVE YOU BEEN AVOIDING ME LATELY?
WHA?
YOU LOOK AWAY FROM ME, AND YOU ACT DISTANT...
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER GETTING IN A FIGHT, SO I HAVE NO IDEA HOW TO ACT!!

IF THERE'S SOMETHING ON YOUR MIND...
...PUT IT INTO WORDS.
...SO I TRIED TO SHOVE YOU OVER.
WE'RE FRIENDS...
...
AREN'T WE?
...
SERIZAWA
...

MAYBE WE...
...SHOULD STOP BEING FRIENDS.

LET'S GO.
...THE RAIN'S GOTTEN PRETTY BAD, HUH.

WE'RE FAR FROM THE HOUSE, SO WHY DON'T WE...
...TAKE SHELTER FROM THE RAIN HERE FOR A LITTLE WHILE?
...WAIT
WHAT THE HECK HAPPENED TO YOUR FEET?!
THEY GOT CUT BY SEA-SHELLS.
WHERE ARE YOUR SHOES?
AH... ON THE BEACH...
DON'T WALK AROUND BARE-FOOT.
HUH? WAIT!
I DON'T NEED YOUR HANKIE.

IT'LL GET DIRTY WRAPPED AROUND MY FEET!
IT'S FINE.
MY SHOES ARE A LOT DIRTIER.
BUT WEAR THEM.
NO, YOU CAN'T, KEI-CHAN...
...YOU DON'T WANT IT?

HMM ...?
...KEI-CHAN.
I COULDN'T REALLY HEAR IT...
WHAT DID YOU SAY JUST NOW?
ON THE BEACH...

...WHY?
...BEING FRIENDS.
I SAID LET'S STOP...
WHY STOP BEING FRIENDS?
SO THAT'S WHY YOU'VE BEEN AVOIDING ME LATELY?
HOW WOULD WE... STOP BEING FRIENDS?
DOES THAT...

WHA!
NO...
...TALK LIKE THIS ANYMORE ...?
... MEAN WE WON'T...
HUH?
UNLESS IT'S KIYO-CHAN?!
Ah!
THEN WHAT IS IT?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
THAT WOULD UPSET ME TOO... IT'S NOT THAT!
...OF WHEN WE WERE IN MIDDLE SCHOOL ...
SERIZAWA-!
...SO NOW YOU DON'T NEED ME ANY-MORE?!
YOU'RE ALL FRIENDLY WITH KIYO-CHAN...
...TO BE MY FRIEND ...?
...I GET YOU...
HOW CAN...
IT'S LIKE THE OPPOSITE ...

THAT FORTUNE IS PROBABLY RIGHT.
IF I SET THIS MOMENT IN MOTION...
I WANT TO BE WITH YOU.
XVI
THE TOWER

WANTING TO TOUCH HER...
I CAN'T HIDE IT.
NOT WANTING TO LET HER GO...
BUT I WON'T DECEIVE HER ANY LONGER.
"...EVERYTHING I HAVE SO STUBBORNLY GUARDED WILL NOT COLLAPSE."

THE TRUTH IS, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS.
scene43 / End

NG LIFE
scene44

...WHA...

...
WHA!
...
"WHAT"
...
WHAT...?
JUST NOW...
WHY...
...DO A THING ...
...LIKE THAT...
BE-CAUSE...
...I...

5:30 p.m. I notice the texts.
Oh no! I fell asleep and it's been two hours since I sent my work out by courier!
ZZZZ
Hurry and write him a text saying that your work is arriving at 6:00 p.m.
But I made my deadline!!!
Fighting expression
Gotta hurry gotta hurry!
Yay! a Beep beep
Message sent!
Oh, a text?
Wonder who it is?
Ringing!
Hi, sorry! I sent the wrong set of files. Please pick it...
Why the hell did I send it to my mom?! Can't believe I'm making my editor sit around waiting at such a crucial time! Don't get carried away stupid stupid!
I smacked myself around with closed fists
I'm often told that my tendency to snap on myself is like Kaidan's.

NO NO NO NO NO NO NO !!
...LO...
ふふふふふ
AHH, I SEE! IT'S A DREAM! I WAS SO SURPRISED.
HM? CAN THIS BE A DREAM?

SERIZAWA ...
NO WAY, NO WAY.
SPEAKING OF WHICH, I THOUGHT YOU WERE ACTING WEIRD TODAY, KEI-CHAN.
SERI ...
SE...
YOU'RE ALWAYS WEIRD, BUT...

LISTEN TO ME.
SERIZAWA.
ドン
I...
NO... NO!!
W-W-WHY ALL OF A SUDDEN...
WHAT FOR?
WHY...
DO YOU...
...KNOW WHO I AM?

DIDN'T YOU...
...SAY YOU LOVED SERENA?
ALWAYS...
ALWAYS...
...IT'S ONLY BEEN SERENA! DIDN'T YOU SAY THAT?
KEIDAI!
MII!

OH.
I FOUND THEM.
OHH, SERIZAWA, SAEKI-KUN.
THAT MUST HAVE BEEN ROUGH, THAT SUDDEN RAIN.
ARE YOU OKAY?
BECAUSE OF THE RAIN, WE'VE BEEN HAVING OUR BARBEQUE INDOORS.

I-I'M GONNA GO CHANGE!
SERI...
DON'T WORRY, THERE ARE TWO PORTIONS OF MEAT WAITING.
DO YOU WANT FRIED NOODLES?
SHE RAN AWAY.
SHE SURE DID.
YOU'VE SURE BEEN UP TO SOMETHING!
WONDER WHAT YOU DID?

IT SEEMED LIKE FUN, SO WE CAME TO HANG OUT.
It's rude to point.
I WAS JUST INVITED TO THE SAKAKIBARA FAMILY VACATION HOME.
WHA...
WHY ARE YOU HERE?!
ME TOO.
This is a Drama Club retreat?!
EVEN SHINA-SAN!
BUT I'M UNDER-AGE!
LET'S MAKE HIM DRINK SO HE'LL TALK.
She didn't even notice we were here
SO? WHAT HAPPENED WITH SERIZAWA?
HE DID GET CARRIED AWAY.
NO DENIAL.
AND IT HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU AND THE REST ANYWAY, SHINOGU-SAN.
WHOA! I KNEW SOMETHING HAPPENED.
DID YOU GET CARRIED AWAY? ALL SWEPT UP IN YOUR EMOTIONS?

WH--
WHO IS
IT...?
knock
knock
DELIVERY.
SHINA-
CHAN!!
WAHHH!
THERE,
THERE.

WAS IT THAT WEIRD?
...I SEE. SO THAT'S WHY YOU LOOKED SO STRANGE.
You ran off without even noticing we were there
Sorry
THERE'S NO WAY.
I WOULDN'T FIND IT SO ODD IF HE FORGOT ALL ABOUT THAT PERSON AND CAME TO HAVE FEELINGS FOR YOU...
BUT, I MEAN KEI-CHAN ALREADY HAS SOMEONE HE LOVES.
BUT ISN'T THIS A HAPPY THING FOR YOU, MII?
BE-SIDES...
HE'D FALL FOR YUUMA-KUN BEFORE HE'D FALL FOR ME!
I'VE HEARD IT SO MUCH I'M SICK OF IT.
IT'S BEEN THAT OVER AND OVER SINCE THE TIME WE MET.
"FOREVER AND ALWAYS, THE ONE I LOVE THE MOST" AND "A BEAUTIFUL AND KIND IDEAL WOMAN" AND SO ON.
Why Yuuma?
Just about got it memorized

THE FACT THAT HE KEEPS TRYING SO HARD FOR THAT PERSON WHO IS OUT OF REACH...
...THE FACT THAT KEI-CHAN'S FEELINGS ARE SO EARNEST AND WHOLE-HEARTED...
...I THINK "HOW ROMANTIC"...
...AND "THAT'S WHY I LOVE HIM SO MUCH."
KEI-CHAN WOULD NEVER FORGET ABOUT SERENA.
MII...
I'M SCARED.
THIS IS TOTALLY DIFFER-ENT...
...FROM THE TIME WITH KIYO-CHAN.
IF KEI-CHAN TOLD ME THAT IT "JUST HAPPENED" OR HE DID IT "ON A WHIM"...
...MY HEART WOULD BE CLOSE TO BREAKING.

I'D NEVER BE ABLE TO SMILE IN FRONT OF KEI-CHAN AGAIN.
OH NOOO, DON'T TELL ME, LITTLE KEI-CHAN...!
TO DO SUCH A THING...
You've become a man
AND THAT'S WHY MEN...
...are the absolute worst
...HEY.
foot
DON'T JUST GO AHEAD AND MAKE UP A STORY WITHOUT A WORD FROM ME, PLEASE!!
WELL.
WE'RE BORED.
WHY ARE YOU HERE AGAIN?!
BUT WE'RE NOT FAR OFF THE MARK, ARE WE.
YOU'RE EASY TO READ YOU DORK
HELLO.
SIKS.

I THOUGHT YOU LIKED SHUNA-SAN, SHINOGU-SAN?!
I LOVE SHUNA, SERIZAWA, REINA, AND YUUMA EQUALLY!!
I'LL DESTROY ANY JERK WHO MAKES THEM CRY!!
And I like Ranka/Aria too!!
...I DON'T KNOW.
HUH?
HOW NOT TO MAKE HER CRY.
HOW TO... ...MAKE HER SMILE.
WE'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF A MEETING, SO PLEASE CARRY OUT YOUR SCHOOL TRIP LOVE STORY SOMEWHERE ELSE.
ポイポイ
Ahhh even I get kicked out too
WELL! AT ANY RATE...
YOU'D BETTER NOT EVER DO ANYTHING TO MAKE SERIZAWA CRY!
AND WE ARRIVE AT THE THIRD DEGREE

EVEN IF I TELL HER I LOVE HER...
...IT DOESN'T TRANSLATE.
BY NOW...
...IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS.
WHAT'S WITH THAT REACTION?! WHY ISN'T IT SOMETHING MORE SURPRISED, LIKE "BUT WEREN'T YOU JUST FRIENDS?!" (OR WHATEVER)?
WHAAAAT?!
Whew-
SO YOU FINALLY SAID IT, HUH?
"LIMITS"? I JUST...
BUT WELL, THIS MEANS THERE WERE LIMITS EVEN TO YOUR SELF-DENIAL.
I GUESS KUDOS FOR STAYING SO GOOD WHILE BEING CLOSE TO HER.
Erk
YOU KNEW, BUT HAD SUPPRESSED IT, AM I RIGHT?
Point is—
EVEN YOU HAD PICKED UP A LITTLE ON SERIZAWA'S FEELINGS, YEAH?

ISN'T SERIZAWA CONFUSED?
DON'T ACT LIKE YOU DON'T KNOW HIM.
THE SHEEP'S CLOTHING IS FINALLY COMING OFF THAT WOLF.
That's your character no mistake
AHH, JEEZ, IT'S BECAUSE THIS GUY, A FEROCIOUS CHARACTER I DON'T KNOW, SAYING "WHAT SHALL I DO WITH THIS NOW?" AND STUFF, POPPED UP...
I see.
YOU'VE ALWAYS TALKED ABOUT SERENA UP 'TIL NOW.
YOU SURE DO UNDERSTAND WOMEN'S FEELINGS, SEEIN' AS YOU'RE HALF-WOMAN.
Mikage
...MY FEELINGS FOR SERENA AND MY PAST LIFE...
...HAVE ALWAYS, ALWAYS BEEN IMPORTANT.
BUT...

...WANTED TO TELL HER.
I COULDN'T STOP.
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?
I JUST...
I KNOW.
STRAIGHT-FORWARD.
I KNOW.
...THERE SHE WAS.
...AND BEYOND MY OVER-FLOWING FEEL-INGS...
MY PENT-UP FEELINGS OVER-FLOWED...
IT'S ONLY BECAUSE IT'S YOU THAT I'M WILLING TO GIVE UP ON HER.
BECAUSE I AM WHO I AM...
...I WANT TO CAREFULLY CAPTURE IT...
I ADMIRED THE WAY THEY LIVE--GO STRAIGHT FORWARD.

...ISN'T THIS AN INCOMPREHENSIBLE CONVERSATION FOR YOU?
HUN?
JUST WONDERING IF, AS SMYRNA, YOU WANT SIRIX TO DIE HAVING LOVED SERENA HIS WHOLE LIFE?
.....
...IF THAT'S OFF BASE, FINE.
BUT.
IF I HAPPEN TO BE RIGHT...
...YOU SHOULD THROW THAT HATE AT ME INSTEAD.

SO MUCH THAT IT HURTS.

111

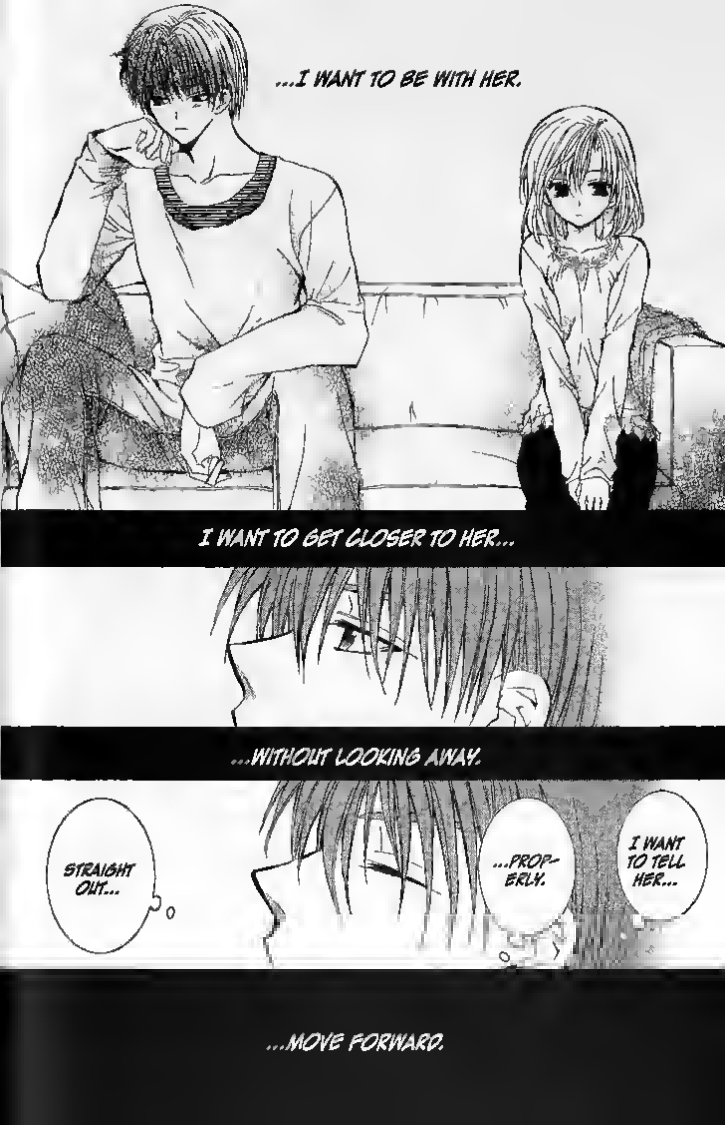
IT'S MY FAULT THAT SIRIX COULDN'T PROTECT SERENA.
RELEASE KEIDAI.
I DON'T KNOW HOW TO MAKE AMENDS, BUT...
IF IT COULD SAVE YOU GUYS...
...I WOULDN'T MIND DYING FOR THAT.
キイ...

I'M THIRSTY...
WHAAA! KEI-CHAN?!
WHY IS HE SLEEPING OUT HERE?!
WHA--
WHA--

HE'LL CATCH COLD.
...MORNING.
MO--
MO...
MO--

I HAD A FEELING THAT IF I WERE HERE, I COULD SEE YOU FIRST.
HUH...
I FORGOT...
...WHAT WAS IT AGAIN?
I'D THOUGHT I WOULD... SAY SOMETHING, BUT...
...HEY.
WON'T YOU SIT DOWN HERE?
THIS IS NO GOOD.
MY HEAD'S TOTALLY BLANK.

IT'S BEEN SO LONG SINCE WE MADE EYE CONTACT.
AH.
くわっ
I'M NOT GONNA GRAB YOU AND BITE YOU.
WHO WOULD DO THA...
.....
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO LOOKED AWAY FIRST, YOU KNOW, KEI-CHAN.
ﾌﾝ
THIS IS AWKWARD.
...AND WAY TOO SLOW.
BUT...


...I WANT TO BE WITH HER.
I WANT TO GET CLOSER TO HER...
...WITHOUT LOOKING AWAY.
I WANT TO TELL HER...
...PROPERLY.
STRAIGHT OUT...
...MOVE FORWARD.

Oh yeah
LATELY... UMM...
...YOU DON'T REALLY TALK ABOUT POMPE!! MUCH, HUH?
POMPE!!
...
AND YOU'VE STOPPED CALLING ME LOLEWS TOO.
I KINDA FEEL A LITTLE SAD ABOUT IT...
...KE--
KEI-CHAN.
FORWARD.

"LOLEUS"...
WHO'S THAT...?

KEI...
CHAN...?
KEI-
CHAN?!

MY MEMORIES OF MY PAST LIFE.

DO YOU REMEMBER?
DO YOU REMEMBER BEFORE YOU WERE BORN?
A Message from Baby
BEFORE I WAS BORN...
IT SAYS THAT...
...BABIES REMEMBER BEING...
...IN THEIR MOMMY'S TUMMY, AND SOMETIMES WHEN THEY WERE SOMEONE ELSE FURTHER BACK.
I WONDER IF YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING, KEI-CHAN? HMM?
...WHY?
WHY THE HELL DON'T YOU REMEMBER?
HUH?
"Hell"? Pardon?
I MEAN, IF A BABY CAN REMEMBER.
I SUPPOSE SO...
RECOLLECTIONS ARE THINGS THAT TEND TO FADE.

KEIDAI.
I DON'T NEED THE PRESENT.
NG LIFE
scene45
...THEN I DON'T NEED IT.
IF I HAVE TO LOSE THEM...
...I'LL OPPOSE EVEN GOD.
IF I HAVE TO LOSE THE PAST...
NO MATTER HOW PAINFUL OR HOW JOYFUL...
...EVENTUALLY THEY'LL GET SMALLER AND MELT AWAY.
...TO LIVE IN THE PRESENT...
BUT YOU KNOW, THAT MAY BE...
IF THAT'S HOW IT IS...
...GOD GIVING US A LITTLE PUSH SO THAT WE LIVE IN THE PRESENT.

Special Thanks ♥

Assistants ⟶ *Mikorun-sama, Rurunga-sama, Kyouka-sama, Ryou Sakura-sama my little sister sama*
(Thank you for a fun workplace as always ♥)
Editor ⟶ *Hasegawa-sama (I'm so... so indebted to you.)*
To the Hana to Yume Editorial Staff-sama, Naato-sama, my family and friends and of course my readers ♥
It's all because of you guys out there that I can continue to draw my beloved comic!

I'LL DROP YOU OFF, SERIZAWA.
THANK YOU SO MUCH!
BYE BYE, SERIZAWA-SAN.
BYE BYE.
SERIZAWA.
...BYE...
...BYE...

...KEIDAI.
IS SOMETHING UP WITH YOU?
THAT'S COLD.
Ha ha.
SOME-THING... WEIRD.
"WHAT" ...
WHAT WOULD BE?
KEI...
...SOME-THING UP?
THERE'S NOTHING.

HUH?
IF YOU'VE GOT ANY WORRIES, LET'S TALK THEM OUT.
NOT WORRIES...
LIKE STUFF WITH KEIDAI, YOU KNOW?
...IT'S THAT OBVIOUS?
Don't underestimate Shinagu Kagami
THAT MAN'S A WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING, SO I WILL GLADLY ACCEPT AN ASSASSINATION REQUEST IF YOU SO DESIRE.
HOW MUCH DOES HE KNOW?
I'M FINE.
IT'S JUST KEI-CHAN...
...HAS BEEN KINDA...
...WEIRD.
KEI-CHAN SAID...
...SOMETHING STRANGE THIS MORNING.
Nice dig
IS THERE EVER A TIME WHEN HE'S NOT?

HE SAID, "'LOLEUS'? WHO'S THAT?"

"LOLEWS"...
"...WHO'S THAT...?"
HE SAID THAT...?
DON'T TELL ME HE...
SHINOSU-NII-CHAN...?
SORRY TO INTRUDE. IS KEIDAI-KUN ON THE SECOND FLOOR?
YES.
I'LL MAKE SOME TEA NOW!
PLEASE DON'T GO TO ANY TROU-BLE.
KEIDAI!!
A' A'

PLEASE DON'T JUST BARGE IN LIKE THAT.
WHAT'S WRONG, SHINOGU-SAN?
YOU SCARED ME.
...ARE YOU EXPERI-ENCING ANY STRANGE CHANGES?
HUH?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN?
IS SOME-THING WEIRD ABOUT ME?
COME TO THINK OF IT, YUUMA SAID "WEIRD" TOO THE OTHER DAY...
YOU HAVEN'T FOR-GOTTEN...!
ABOUT POMPEII, HAVE YOU...?
POMPEII...?

MY LITTLE SISTER!!
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN HER, HAVE YOU?!
SIRIX!!!
...WHAT ARE...
...YOU TALKING ABOUT...?

I HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN...
...ABOUT YOU EITHER.
BIG SISTER SMYRNA.

My voice would be considered husky by most, and I'm also not a high energy person personality-wise.
So it appears that sometimes others hear a bad mood in my normal speaking tone
Sorry...
I can speak with a very relaxed voice to my editor, H-san, because I've been with her since my debut
Ahh... I've forgotten how to draw comics.
The rough draft?
This is a work meeting so...
This is no good!
Attempting a professional voice
Hello! Thank you for your hard work!
What's wrong? Your voice is weird.

...KEIGA!...
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?
THAT MY MEMORIES...
...ARE UNSTABLE.
YOU...
I'M FINE. THEY WERE ABOUT TO VANISH FOR A MOMENT, BUT...
...BUT.
...I THOUGHT HARD ABOUT THAT CITY, NOT WANTING TO LET IT GO...
...AND MY MEMORIES STAYED WHERE THEY WERE.

THE MOMENT THEY'RE ABOUT TO VANISH...
...IT'S ALMOST SCARY NOW EASY IT IS.
IT FEELS LIKE LITTLE WAVES WASHING OVER SAND ON A BEACH, ERASING FOOTPRINTS.
WHEN--WILL THEY VANISH AGAIN...?
...SCARIER THAN ANY TSUNAMI.
BUT THAT MAKES IT...
...I BEG YOU.
MISS SMYRNA ...
I'M GLAD YOU CAME HERE.

...PLEASE...
...DO NOT FORGIVE ME!
KEI...
PLEASE...
...HATE ME...
HATE ME MORE.
IF YOU TELL ME THAT YOU'LL NEVER FORGIVE ME...
...FOR NOT BEING ABLE TO PROTECT SERENA...

...I WON'T EVER...
...FORGET AGAIN!!!
...I UNDER-STAND...
...WHY SHUNA-SAN'S MEMORIES VANISHED.
SHUNA-SAN'S MEMORIES DIDN'T VANISH OUT OF HATE FOR MIKAGE-SAN.

IT WAS BECAUSE SHE WISHED TO LIVE.
BECAUSE, ACCEPTING HER FEELINGS AS "AGLAIA" AS THINGS OF THE PAST...
...SHE WISHED TO LIVE IN THIS WORLD ALONGSIDE MIKAGE AS "SHUNA."
GOD...
...GAVE HER A PUSH.
SO...
...HER MEMORIES VANISHED.
I'M... ...THE SAME WAY TOO.
I LOVE SERIZAWA.
I LOVE HER, SO...
...I WANT TO TREASURE HER NOT AS "LOLEUS," MY BEST FRIEND IN THE PAST, BUT AS "SERIZAWA," THE ONE GIRL FOR ME.
BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT I WISHED...

...IN EXCHANGE FOR MY FEELINGS FOR SERIZAWA...
...WILL VANISH.
... MY PRECIOUS MEMORIES...

PLEASE DO NOT FORGIVE ME.
THAT GUY...

WHILE GOING ON ABOUT HOW NO GOOD HIS PRESENT LIFE IS...
...IN TRUTH, HE'S THE ONE WHO'S PASSING BY WHAT WILL MAKE HIM THE HAPPIEST HERE.
IF IT COULD SAVE YOU GUYS, I WOULDN'T MIND DYING FOR THAT.
THAT ONE TOO...
WHY DO WE ALONE RETAIN OUR MEMORIES?
THE ANSWER IS SIMPLE.
BECAUSE WE LOVE THAT PLACE MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.
AND WE HATE IT...
...MORE THAN ANYONE ELSE.

...YES.
-DOOD
RRRRR
RRRRRR
RRRRRR
...KEI-CHAN.
WHY DO I JUST HAVE TO HEAR HER VOICE AND...
LOOK, YOU WERE KIND OF OFF THIS MORNING...
HUH? WELL, UM...
...WHAT'S UP?
...SERIZAWA?
YE--YEAH!

I'M SURE SHE'S REALLY NERVOUS.
SO IT WAS JUST YOUR USUAL WEIRD-NESS?
HEY NOW!
SERIZAWA'S VOICE IS TREMBLING.
BUT SHE CALLED ME.
...IT'S EXACTLY LIKE MY HEART'S GETTING SQUEEZED TIGHT.
WHAT THE HECK? THAT WAS NOTHING.
I... I SEE.
UMM! KE... KEI-CHAN, UM.
I HAVE SOMETHING I WANTED TO ASK YOU...
UM... ABOUT THAT RAINY DAY...
HOW MUCH COURAGE DID THAT TAKE?

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WHY ARE YOU SAYING MY NAME WITH THAT VOICE?
DID... SOMETHING HAPPEN?
...
SERIZAWA.
BEFORE, WHEN WE WENT TO ANIMAL GAME LAND TOGETHER...
...WHAT I SAID TO KIWAME-SENSEI...
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS?! I TREASURE HER TO THE POINT OF DEATH!
...I COULD FORGET FEELINGS LIKE THESE, BUT...

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Since there aren't really any opportunities to draw it—
here's Raoul and Aria's background story
—The two saw each other often at a certain meadow in Pompeii.
Raoul would come to this meadow alone to get lost in thought far from the troubles of nobility and work, and Aria would go to the meadow to see his face, while also confronting the Raoul who worked her big brother Sirix to the bone
For Raoul, the time he spent with Aria was the only time he relaxed, and it even stirred something within his heart
I'd really like to draw their story

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AUGUST 23, 79 A.D.

THE ITALIAN CITY
OF POMPEII.

THAT DAY WAS ENGULFED BY
A NEARLY OPPRESSIVE HEAT
AND AN EERIE STILLNESS.

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IS SOMETHING THE MATTER?
HUH?
THE BIRDS...
THE BIRDS ARE GONE.
THE ATMOSPHERE AROUND MT. VESUVIUS IS DIFFERENT FROM USUAL...
FOR SOME REASON...
...I HAVE A BAD FEELING.
FREED FROM THE LONG, PAINFUL GLADIATOR BATTLES...
...I HAD BEEN MAKING A LIVING AS A MERCENARY FOR THE HOUSE OF FELIX, MARRIED TO SERENA
SERENA.
I CAN'T COME HOME TONIGHT, BUT WILL YOU BE ALL RIGHT?
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WE HAVEN'T REALLY GOTTEN TO ENJOY MUCH TIME TOGETHER...
I'LL BE WORKING AS A BODYGUARD THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT AT THE HOUSE OF FELIX'S DINNER PARTY.
YES.
NO.
WE'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER.
BESIDES ...
...MY ELDER SISTER IS COMING.
WHY ARE YOU HERE EVERY DAY... BIG SISTER SMYRNA?
We're already married?
SHOULD I NOT BE?
Huh?
OH, SERENA! YOU POOR THING, MARRYING A MAN WITH NO EARNING POWER.
Aura of Happiness
...BY THE WAY, THE DUOVIRI ELECTIONS ARE COMING UP--HOW IS AGLAIA DOING?

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YES.
AS HER FATHER LORD GAIUS IS THE STRONGEST CANDIDATE FOR THE NEXT DUOVIRI...
...AND THE CURRENT DUOVIRI AND THE NEXT CANDIDATES WILL GATHER AT TONIGHT'S DINNER PARTY...
...LADY AGLAIA WILL ALSO PARTICIPATE AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF FELIX.
"DUOVIRI" = THE TWO MOST POWERFUL PEOPLE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF POMPEII.
AGLAIA'S FATHER GAIUS FELIX
AND THEY SAY LORD GAIUS HAS MANY SUPPORTERS BECAUSE HIS DAUGHTER LADY AGLAIA HAS EARNED IMMENSE TRUST FROM THE PEOPLE.
BUT THERE'S ALSO THAT ALBANUS BRITIUS AS A DUOVIRI CANDIDATE...
THAT GUY'S FAMILY HAS GOTTEN ALONG BADLY WITH THE HOUSE OF FELIX FROM THE START...
...AND THERE ARE LOTS OF DARK RUMORS TOO.
That's my logical
Naturally!
I WONDER IF AGLAIA WILL BE ALL RIGHT?
THAT'S WHY I'LL BE THERE.

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I, SIRIX, WILL PROTECT...
...LADY AGLAIA...
...WITH MY LIFE.
WITH YOUR LIFE... HUH?
AGLAIA IS A VALUABLE FRIEND TO ME AS WELL, BUT...
...DON'T THROW YOUR LIFE AWAY JUST FOR HER SAKE.
I UNDER-STAND.
BECAUSE I WON'T LEAVE SERENA ALONE, EITHER.
ANO, MISS SMYRNA...
...I HOPE TO PROTECT YOU AS WELL.

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I'M NONE OF YOUR CONCERN! GET OUT AT ONCE.
YES. I'LL BE GOING NOW.
I...
GAH!
SORRY!
WHAT'S WRONG? DID YOU HIT YOUR FACE?
TINA!
TINA! YOU CAME!
NO, THAT'S NOT IT. SHE'S MY FRIEND, AND...
HUH... SHE'S FINE.
SERENA, IT LOOKS LIKE THIS GIRL HIT HER FACE...
SHE'S A VERY SHY PERSON.
THE FELIX ESTATE.
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This is a past life version I've wanted to draw I get asked a lot how old Sirix and Serena are, so I'll answer here When they met

Sirix ⟶ 19
Serena ⟶ 16

Loleus is the same age as Sirix Aria is the same age as Serena

Aglaia Smyrna, and Delos are a year elder than Sirix

Raeul is two years older

On the final day of Pompeii, Sirix is 22

Serena is 19

For the past life versions, I want to put special care into my drawings and construction... but by the time I turn everything in it looks the same as any other chapter It's just so hard to get things looking like your ideal in such a short time, and it's then that I truly feel just how brutal and intense my two-chapters-a-month schedule can be

Now then, the final volume of NG Life is finally coming up next! I'm just about to start work on the rough draft for the magazine run (in Hana to Yume) for the last chapter as we speak I plan on pouring in as much love and appreciation as I possibly can for my readers in this final chapter so please support me to the end!

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Murder and embezzlement!
But there's no proof.
DARK POLITICAL RUMORS ARE SWIRLING.
THE HOUSE OF BRITIUS HAS LONG OPPOSED THE HOUSE OF FELIX.
DON'T TAKE YOUR EYES OFF HIM TONIGHT.
OKAY.
ALBANUS BRITIUS.
ARIA?
IS ARIA DOING WELL?
HEY, SIRIX.
SIRIX, YOU'RE KINDA DUMB.
? ? ?
WHAT DOES RAOUL'S WEDDING HAVE TO DO WITH IT?
I MIGHT LACK ATTENTIVENESS, CERTAINLY, BUT...
PAY ATTENTION TO WHAT'S AROUND YOU!
What do you mean, dumb?
BECAUSE RAOUL GOT MARRIED THE OTHER DAY.
AS YOU THOUGHT?
A political marriage, but still.
What should a big brother do?
SHE'S ALWAYS MOPING AROUND LATELY.
AS I THOUGHT.

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THEN DO YOU KNOW A FRIEND OF SEREHA'S NAMED TINA?
OH... YEAH.
A little
You know everything huh?
I GUESS SHE'S REALLY SHY, SO I COULDN'T SPEAK TO HER.
SHY! SO THEY WENT WITH THAT?
THAT'S NOT THE TRUTH?
THAT GIRL WAS A SLAVE, BUT WAS ABANDONED BY HER MASTER.
SEEMS SERENA TOOK CARE OF HER WHEN SHE HAD COLLAPSED WITH NO JOB.
She's emotionally attached to Serena, eh?
SEEMS SHE WAS ABANDONED DUE TO HER "FACE"...
...SO SHE ALWAYS HIDES HER FACE.
HOW AWFUL...
WHO THE HELL WAS HER MASTER?!
YOU GOT MAD LIKE THAT BACK THEN, TOO. WHEN I WAS COLLAPSED ON THE ROADSIDE...
...AFTER BEING BEATEN BY MY MASTER.
YOU CRIED LIKE A LITTLE BABY.
I WAS NOT LIKE A LITTLE BABY!
YOU KNOW, SIRIX, YOUR FACE THEN...
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...WAS SO INTENT AND SERIOUS...
...THAT NOW I CAN...
...LAUGH FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE!
Are you making fun of me?
YOU TWO ARE AS FRIENDLY AS EVER, I SEE.
Aha ha ha
Please say something about it
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE'D COME TO A DINNER PARTY IN PAINT-SPLATTERED CLOTHES.
LOLEUS, WHAT A STRIKING FIGURE YOU CUT.
IT'S COLORFUL AND STYLISH, RIGHT?
You're dressed up today, Lady Aglaia.
LADY AGLAIA.

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OH YEAH! THE FRESCO YOU COMMISSIONED FOR YOUR BEDROOM IS COMPLETE, LADY AGLAIA.
GO LOOK AT IT LATER, OKAY? I'M VERY PROUD OF IT.
I LOOK FORWARD TO IT.
HOLDING A PAINTBRUSH SUITS YOU FAR BETTER THAN WIELDING A SWORD IN A PLACE LIKE THIS, BUT...
LADY AGLAIA.
THIS IS A SPLENDID DINNER PARTY.
WITH THIS, IT'S ENOUGH TO DETERMINE ONE OF THE DUOVIR! EVEN WITHOUT AN ELECTION.
LORD MARCUS.
...YOU GROW MORE AND MORE BEAUTIFUL.
OH MY...
CURRENT DUOVIR MARCUS HOLCONIUS
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IF YOU ARE MINE TONIGHT...
...I OFFER YOU YOUR FATHER'S VICTORY AS A SURE THING.
...DO NOT JOKE WITH...
NO... A WISE WOMAN LIKE YOURSELF...
...AROUSES MY LUST FOR CONQUEST...
SUCH RUDE...
EXCUSE ME, LORD MARCUS.
WOULD YOU PERHAPS CARE TO SOBER UP IN ANOTHER ROOM?
DELOS...
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LOLEUS' FRESCO IS A MARVELOUS WORK.
PERHAPS YOU SHOULD REST IN YOUR BEDROOM.
WHEN-- DID YOU ENTER MY BEDROOM?
...I DIDN'T ENTER. I ONLY SAW IT THIS AFTERNOON...
BUT YOU COME VISIT AT NIGHT...
DON'T SPEAK SUCH NONSENSE!
カタ
Hee hee
YOU'RE RIGHT.
SHALL I GO HAVE A PEEK?

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LOLEUS! WHERE IS LADY AGLAIA?! I DON'T SEE HER!
HUH? SHE WAS JUST HERE...
DID SHE RETURN TO HER ROOM...
BECAUSE HER FEELINGS WERE WOUNDED BY WHAT JUST HAPPENED...?
AAAHHH!!
SOME-ONE!
SOME-OOONE!!
?!
DUOVIR LORD MARCUS IS...!!

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...SHE WAS TAKEN AWAY AS THE CULPRIT.
AS THE KNIFE THAT WAS USED BELONGED TO LADY AGLAIA...
...WAS SLAIN IN LADY AGLAIA'S ROOM.
THE NIGHT OF THE DINNER PARTY, CURRENT DUCVIR MARCUS...
"SO EVEN A SAINT CAN KILL SOMEONE..."
AN EERIE SMILE PLAYING ON HIS FACE, ALBANUS BRITIUS SAID:
AND SO...
THE FATEFUL NIGHT TURNS TO DAY
IT'S A TRAP!
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AS IF LADY AGLAIA WOULD MURDER ANYONE!
THEY SAY LADY AGLAIA HAS BEEN IMPRIS-ONED IN THE DUNGEONS.
I GUESS WE CAN'T SEE HER.
ONE WRONG MOVE AND WE'LL BE LOCKED UP TOO...
STILL.
IF IT'S A TRAP, THAT MAY MEAN HER VERY LIFE IS IN DANGER...!
I WON'T HAVE HER MADE A CRIMINAL!
LET'S GO!
YEAH.
.....

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POMPEII DISTRICT 1 DUNGEONS.
I WONDER IF THAT GATE GUARD BACK THERE WILL BE OKAY.
WE JUST PUT HIM TO SLEEP.
LADY AGLAIA IS INSIDE HERE...
SIRI...
SOMEONE'S HERE...
YOU ARE QUITE UNLUCKY, LADY AGLAIA.
LADY AGLAIA...!!
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ON ACCOUNT OF BEING BORN TO THE HOUSE OF FELIX...
...YOU ARE ASSAULTED BY A FATE THAT YOU HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO SHOULDER.
ALBANUS BRITIUS?!
FATE, YOU SAY...?
I SEE THAT YOU PLANNED TO BECOME A GOD...
...MANIPULATING DESTINY BY KILLING SOMEONE AND TRICKING ME INTO THIS?
I DIDN'T KILL ANYONE.
I DID NOT LEAVE MY SEAT ONCE DURING THE DINNER PARTY.
SO YOU JUST MADE ONE OF YOUR UNDERLINGS DO IT?!
IF I AM JUDGED A CRIMINAL, MY FATHER'S PATH TO DUOVIR IS OVER.
ISN'T THAT YOUR GOAL?!
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DID YOU CHERISH HIM, HMM?
MY SEED, DELOS BRITIUS.
...YOU WERE LOVED TOO MUCH BY THE PEOPLE.
KIND AGLAIA.
...AND DON'T REFUSE THOSE RELYING ON YOU.
YOU EXTEND YOUR HAND TO THE MISFORTUNATE...
YOU'RE SO NICE, IT MAKES ME WANT TO VOMIT.
SO.
I SOWED A POISON SEED...
...IN THE PLACE CLOSEST TO YOU.
A SEED...

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DE... LOS...
JUST WHAT...
HE WAS BORN FROM THE BELLY OF SOME VULGAR WOMAN SOMEWHERE, YOU KNOW.
MORE A SLAVE THAN MY SON.
HE'S A PUPPET THAT MOVES ONLY ACCORDING TO MY ORDERS.
DO YOU GET IT YET?
THE ONE WHO WAS PLACED AT YOUR SIDE, GAINED YOUR TRUST, KILLED SOMEONE IN YOUR ROOM, TRICKED YOU INTO THIS...
THAT WAS ALL MY SLAVE, DELOS!!!
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TELL ME!!
WHO'S THERE?!
...YOU TWO...
...DELOS...
...TELL ME...
TELL ME THIS IS A LIE...
...THAT WHAT THAT MAN SAYS IS A LIE!
SAY THAT YOU DID NOT GET CLOSE TO LADY AGLAIA FOR THAT PURPOSE!!!
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EVEN IF I TELL HIM, I HAVE NO CREDIBILITY.
AS I'M A FORMER SLAVE.
IF YOU GO, EVERYONE WILL TAKE ACTION.
LET'S HURRY AND BRING AN END TO THIS.
I'LL COME BACK SOON...
...SO YOU'D BETTER NOT DIE!!
WELL, I CAN'T BREAK A PROMISE...
...NOT TO SIRIX.

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I AM SIRIX'S SHIELD.
WHAT A STUPID WAY TO LIVE.
I'M FINE WITH IT. I WAS HAPPY, YOU KNOW.
RUN, LOLEUS!!
FORGET ABOUT ME!
...WHY DID YOU LET HIM GO?
SIRIX IS STRONGER THAN YOU, DELOS.
AND I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM A MURDERER.
SO THIS BODY ONLY NEEDS TO TAKE THE BLADE.
BUT...
SO CAN YOU ...
...KILL ME?

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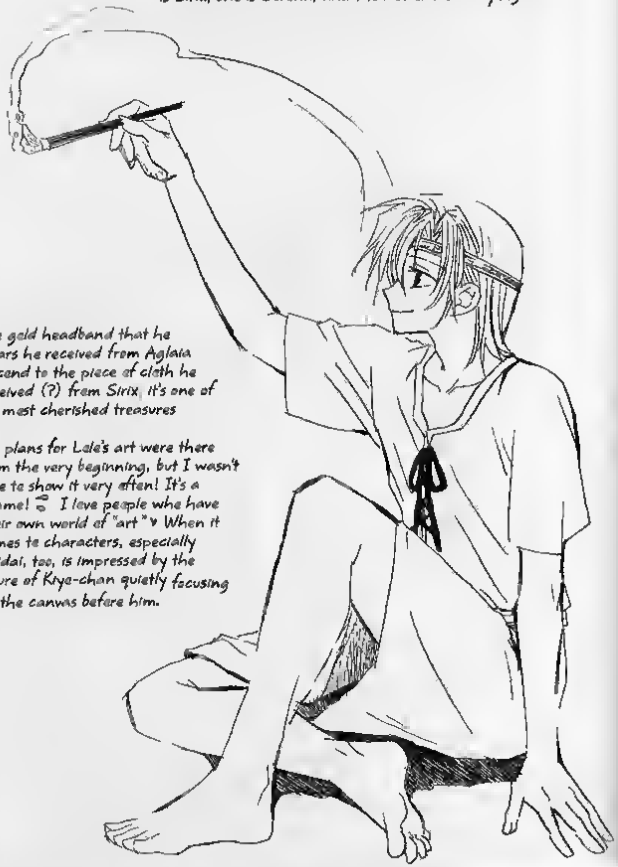
Extra
A little sketch from when Laleus was a live-in at the Felix Estate. There, he painted wherever he wished and worked as Aglaia's guard. Aglaia wanted to let Laleus simply paint to his heart's content instead of guarding her, but Laleus chose to take up the sword for Aglaia's sake. Laleus has three people he decided he would live for. One is Sirix, one is Serena, and the last one is Lady Aglaia.



The gold headband that he wears he received from Aglaia. Second to the piece of cloth he received (?) from Sirix, it's one of his most cherished treasures.

My plans for Lale's art were there from the very beginning, but I wasn't able to show it very often! It's a shame! ^^; I love people who have their own world of "art"♥ When it comes to characters, especially Kaidai, too, is impressed by the figure of Kiya-chan quietly focusing on the canvas before him.

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Smyrna & Aglaia

The strong, wise Aglaia is Smyrna's most admirable, beloved friend
Aglaia is kind and considerate but not particularly feminine, so
Smyrna, even with her whip and unyielding spirit, is actually
the most "girly" of all the women characters from Pompeii
Her little sister Serena is freakishly determined to protect
people so you could say that she's unusually strong in
both body and spirit as well, right...? (LOL)

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NG LIFE 9

THAT MARKED THE START OF POMPEII'S...
WHAT THE --?!
LOOK! THE MOUNTAIN IS--!!
DON'T WORRY. IT'LL STOP SOON.
HOW HORRIBLE
NO ONE COULD COMPREHEND WHAT WAS HAPPENING.
THAT THIS ERUPTION OF BLACK SMOKE AND THE HORRIBLE RUMBLE...

...TRAGIC FINAL DAY.

BY MIZUHO KUSANAGI
COMING SOON!

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